

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8625

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3309

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, WA, SF

SUBJ: ENFORCED CALM IN NAMIBIA

REF: PRETORIA 3054

1. FSO'S O'NEILL AND PETTERSON WERE IN NAMIBIA SEPTEMBER 11-14. ALL REMAINS QUIET THERE, AS HARSH ACTIONS TAKEN BY SAG HAVE PROVED TO BE FULLY EFFECTIVE. TIGHT SECURITY MEASURES REMAIN IN EFFECT IN OWAMBO. IN WINDHOEK SEPTEMBER 9, POLICE AND ARMY MOUNTED MASSIVE HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCH FOR SWAPO YOUTH LEAGUE FUGITIVES. ALTHOUGH THIS EFFORT UNSUCCESSFUL, IT PROVIDED DEMONSTRATION OF AUTHORITIES' DETERMINATION TO SHOW THEY MEAN BUSINESS. LATER IN WEEK TWO YOUTH LEAGUE
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LEADERS WERE ARRESTED NEAR BOTSWANA BORDER (PRETORIA 3279),

WHICH THEY EVENTUALLY HOPED TO CROSS.

2. NINE OF ELEVEN SWAPO YOUTH LEAGUE LEADERS WHO MADE FIERY SPEECHES AT AUGUST 12 POLITICAL MEETING AT KATUTURA (PRETORIA 2836) HAVE BEEN APPREHENDED. ONE HAS ALREADY BEEN TRIED, CONVICTED AND SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR. IT EXPECTED THAT MOST OF OTHERS WILL BE CHARGED WITH INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL OF SWA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, A FEW MAY BE CHARGED UNDER TERMS OF SABOTAGE ACT. IF CONVICTED THEY WOULD FACE MINIMUM SENTENCE OF FIVE YEARS.

3. JOHANNES NANGUTUUALA, JOHN OTTO, JIMMY AMPALA AND ANDREAS NUUKWAWO, LEADING OPPONENTS OF SAG-SUPPORTING OWAMBO GOVERNMENT WHO WERE ARRESTED IN MAY FOR HOLDING ILLEGAL MEETING AND WHOSE APPEAL AGAINST CHARGES WAS UPHELD BY SWA SUPREME COURT (PRETORIA 3119), HAVE BEEN CHARGED ANEW. THEY ARE FREE ON BAIL, BUT APPROXIMATELY 125 OTHER OVAMBOS ARE IN DETENTION IN OWAMBO. ABOUT 25 WERE DETAINED DURING EARLY PHASE OF POLITICAL UNREST IN OWAMBO AND AN ESTIMATED 100 ARRESTED IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER FOLLOWING SAG'S DECISION USE FORCE TO PUT AN END TO ALL FORMS OF DISSENT IN THE HOMELAND. APPARENTLY MANY OF DETAINEES ARE BEING HELD UNDER PROVISIONS OF PROCLAMATION R17, EMERGENCY REGULATION IN OWAMBO WHICH EMPOWERS POLICE TO ARREST AND DETAIN ANYONE FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD. PERSONS SO DETAINED ARE HELD INCOMMUNICADO AND NEED NOT BE CHARGED OR BROUGHT TO COURT.

4. IN ADDITION TO USE OF POLICE AND MILITARY TO END DEMONSTRATIONS AND ARREST DISSIDENTS, SWA AUTHORITIES HAVE ANOTHER WEAPON TO QUASH HIGHLY ACTIVE AND VOCAL OPPONENTS. DURING PAST FOUR MONTHS, SECONDARY STUDENTS IN OWAMBO AND KATUTURA HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST SAG AND OWAMBO GOVERNMENT. HUNDREDS HAVE BEEN EXPELLED AND MANY WILL NOT BE RE-ADMITTED TO THEIR SCHOOLS. FOR EXAMPLS, ABOUT 250 OF TOTAL 500 STUDENTS AT AUGUSTINEUM, KATUTURA'S SHOWPLACE SECONDARY SCHOOL, HAVE BEEN EXPELLED AND ONLY 14 PERMITTED RETURN. REPORTEDLY GOVERNMENT HAS BLACK-LISTED THEM FROM OTHER SCHOOLS AND WITH BUSINESS CONCERS WHICH MIGHT EMPLOY THEM.

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5. GOVERNMENT'S STERN MEASURES HAVE HAD INTENDED EFFECT. AS ONE SOURCE PUT IT, BLACKS ARE "KEEPING THEIR HEADS DOWN AND ONLY A FOOL WOULD RISK ANTYTHING NOW." DIRK MUDGE, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR FOR SWA AND LEADER OF NATIONAL PARTY IN SWA ASSEMBLY, AND BILLY MARAIS, PRIME MINISTER'S REPRESENTATIVE IN SWA, TOLD FSO'S THAT THERE NOW A GROWING SPIRIT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN NON-WHITES AND WHITES IN TERRITORY. BUT BISHOP AUALA, PRESIDENT OF UNITED EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND

SPIRITUAL LEADER OF MAJORITY OF OWAMBOS, COMMENTED PRIVATELY THAT HIS PEOPLE'S BITTERNESS AND DISTRUST OF WHITES IS INCREASING. OF THE TWO CONFLICTING OPINIONS, AUALA'S CERTAINLY SEEMS THE MORE VALID. HOWEVER, DESPITE GROWING ANTAGONISM BETWEEN THE RACES, SAG HAS SUCCEEDED IN IMPOSING ITS BRAND OF LAW AND ORDER, AND THROUGH INTIMIDATION, USE OF FORCE AND PERSUASION WILL KEEP LID ON UNREST IN NAMIBIA.
SMITH

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